**Setting of coal plants in Gujarat**

612. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal plants set up in Kutechha District of Gujarat and how many of them are in pipeline;

(b) the expected investment in the above plants;

(c) whether there is any protest made by environmentalists in setting up of nearly 40 coal plants; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Government owned coal companies have not set up any coal plant in the state of Gujarat.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

**Expansion of coal industry**

†613. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has given some suggestions for expansion of the coal industry as per the requirement of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decisions taken by Government to implement these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has suggested some critical initiatives for the development of coal sector which, *inter alia,* include the following:

(i) Expedite passing of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 which would permit private sector in non-captive mining in order to augment domestic coal production for meeting the rising coal demand..

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.